

FIRST STEPS 2ND EDITION

LINKING ASSESSMENT WITH TEACHING AND LEARNING

FIRST STEPS is a set of teaching resources and not a programme. The resources in FIRST STEPS are intended to support and supplement the current resources prescribed by the MOE. FIRST STEPS believes that teachers already know WHAT to teach and is aimed at helping teachers to extend their repertoire of knowledge and skills on HOW to teach. Subscribing to the themes and syllabus specified, FIRST STEPS focuses on creating awareness among the English language teachers of the need to link assessment to teaching and learning the classroom.

The resources are:

- Linking Assessment, Teaching and Learning
- Map of Development for Reading/Writing/Listening and Speaking
- Resource book for Reading/Writing/Listening and Speaking
- CD-ROMs
- RIGBY reading resources

Objectives

This course enables participants to:

- support learning with a range of scaffolds such as modeling, sharing, guiding and conferencing in English language classroom
- explicitly teach learners the strategies involved when reading/writing/speaking and listening to a range of texts
- incorporate a balance of small-group, whole-class and individual instruction when teaching
- use a variety of relevant tools to assess learners' writing development
- create a learning environment that is safe and receptive for learners to ask for help when they need it and express themselves readily without fear of judgement or ridicule
- help learners to make connections between their current understandings and new learning that is being undertaken when writing
- adapt and develop supplementary activities to provide adequate opportunities for learners to practice the skills
- plan learning experiences which are built on learners' development, individual characteristics and cultural background and through integration of skills

Content

The contents for FIRST STEPS cuts across all three Phases:

- FIRST STEPS - STRAND 1 (READING)
- FIRST STEPS - STRAND 2 (WRITING)
- FIRST STEPS - STRAND 3 (LISTENING AND SPEAKING)

Topics covered include:

- understanding the beliefs and goals of FIRST STEPS
- understanding and managing the FIRST STEPS Reading/Writing/Listening and Speaking Map of Development
- assessing and supporting students' reading/writing/listening and speaking development
- understanding the use of texts for all three strands
- understanding the role of Contextual Understanding in teaching reading, writing and listening and speaking
- understanding the importance of Conventions
- understanding the processes and strategies involved
- planning and teaching a writing lesson

Duration

Phase 1: 3 days (18 hours)

Phase 2: 3 days (18 hours)

Phase 3: 3 days (18 hours)

Modes of Delivery

As FIRST STEPS is not a programme but a set of teaching and learning resources, course participants will need to be familiar with the books. Interactive lectures, demonstration or modelling of specific processes and strategies and workshops are some of the activities designed to help teachers familiarize, adapt and adopt activities from resources.

Participants

In-service English teachers nominated by school heads and JPN officers.